

## Summary of Current **Commercial** Fish Regulations in Delaware for 2006

Species	Commercial Min. Size Limit	Commercial Season	Special Conditions / Comments
American Eel	6"	Open Year Round	
Bass, Black Sea	11"	Each Fishery (Pots & Commercial H&L) has a Quota	Black Sea Bass Permits Required for Pots & Commercial Hook & Line
Bass, Striped	20" 28"	Delaware River & Bay, - Gill Nets Feb. 15-May 31 Nanticoke River – March 1 - 30 All other areas and seasons including fall Gill net H&L April 1 - Dec. 31 Atlantic Ocean –Feb. 15 –May 31#	Drift-net only Feb. 15 – Feb. 28 Tags Required
Blue Crabs (Pot)	5" Hard; 3.5" Soft; 3" Peeler; mature female – no size limit	March 1-Nov 30	Pot: DE River and Bay, Roy's Creek south of Fenwick Island Ditch
Blue Crabs (Dredge)	5" Hard; Mature Female-None	Dec 15-March 31	Dredge: DE Bay and Atlantic Ocean
Bluefish	None	Open Year Round	# and #####
Clams, Hard	1.5" Wide	Closed Sundays (area closures) ***	Tong: 2500, Dredge: No limit (DE Bay only)
Conchs, Channeled	3 1/8" dia. at whorl or 6" long	Open Year Round	Dredge and/or Pot permit required
Conchs, Knobbed	2 3/4" dia. at whorl or 5" long	Open Year Round	Dredge and/or Pot permit required
Croaker, Atlantic	8"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Drum, Black	None	Open Year Round	# and #####
Drum, Red	20-27", none > 27"	Open Year Round	5/day
Flounder, Summer @@@	17" (effective May 10)/14" Gill nets	Open Year Round unless de minimus amount is landed @@	200 pounds trip limit
Flounder, Winter	12"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Horseshoe Crabs	None	Dredge Closed May 1-June 30, Beach Collecting Closed May 1-June 7##	**
Lobster	3 3/8" Minimum Carapace length*; females max length 5 1/2"	Closed Sundays	50 pot limit, no more than 100 lobsters/day; no V-notched females may be possessed
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Oysters (dredge)	2 3/4"	May 8-June 24 & Sept. 1-Dec. 31	(Eligibility requirements, quota=12,843 bushels)
Sharks	None	Quota Based	See Tidal Finfish Regulation 3541(formerly TFF Reg. 25)
Spot	None	Open Year Round	# and #####
Spotted Seatrout	12"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Sturgeon, Atlantic	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	CLOSED	NONE MAY BE TAKEN
Tautog	14" (15" April, May, June)	Closed Sept. 1-28	10/day (3/day in April, May and June)
Weakfish (Trout)	12" (13" Comm. H&L) @	#,#####	# and #####
White Perch	8"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Scup	9"	Open Year Round	# and #####
Shad (American & Hickory)	None	Open Year Round	Closed Atlantic Ocean; Nanticoke River & Broad Creek
Spiny Dogfish	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	CLOSED	NONE MAY BE TAKEN

\* Carapace length measured from rear of eye socket to posterior edge of body shell.

\*\* Commercial eelers may collect horseshoe crabs for own use as bait in eel pots only, provided they submit weekly reports to the Department.

\*\*\* See map in 2006 Fishing Guide. Clams may be harvested on Sundays between and including Labor Day and Memorial Day next ensuring.

# More than 200 feet of fixed, anchored, or staked gill net is prohibited between May 10 and Sept 30, in all tidal waters of this State.

Drift netting is prohibited from 0001hrs on Saturdays through 1600hrs on Sundays and legal holidays between May 10-Sept 30 (except as stated above);

commercial gill nets shall be no less than 3 1/8 inch stretch from April 1- June 30.

## Authorized persons may collect horseshoe crabs on Tuesdays & Thursdays from state-owned lands east of State Road 89 (Port Mahon Rd) or from private lands (with written permission) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from June 8-30. Collecting prohibited between sunset and sunrise.

### No fixed gill nets may be fished in the Delaware estuary north of Liston Point from Jan 1-May 31; no gill nets may be fished in the Nanticoke River and its tributaries or the C & D Canal and its tributaries having twine size larger than 0.28mm in diameter or with a stretch mesh > 5 1/2"

#### All gill nets are prohibited in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean in 2006 on May 1-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-29, June 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, and 23-30.

@ Weakfish minimum size is 13" for all commercial hook and line fishermen. Between May 1 and October 31, Comm HKL allowed only 4 days/week.

@@ Subject to closure if the commercial quota of approximately 16,820 pounds is exceeded.

@@@ Creel limit of 4/day for commercial hook and line, fish pot, seine and fyke nets.

**[THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND LAWS PREVAIL]**